

WHALE BRANCH ELEMENTARY

15 Stuart Point Road
Seabrook, SC 29940

GRADES PK-5 Elementary School

ENROLLMENT 376 Students

PRINCIPAL Kathy Rundquist, Interim Principal 843-466-1000

SUPERINTENDENT Herman K. Gaither 843-322-2300

BOARD CHAIR Earl Campbell 843-322-2356

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2004

ABSOLUTE RATING:

BELOW AVERAGE

Absolute Ratings of Elementary Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
3	16	66	36	2

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

BELOW AVERAGE

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

NO

This school met 14 out of 19 objectives. The objectives included performance and participation of students in various groups and student attendance rate.

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM

WWW.SCEOC.ORG

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	N/A
2002	Below Average	Below Average	N/A
2003	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	No
2004	Below Average	Below Average	No

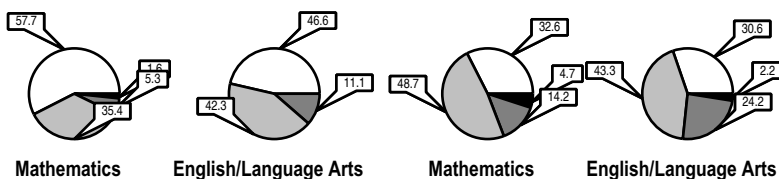
DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

PERCENT OF STUDENT RECORDS MATCHED FOR PURPOSES OF COMPUTING IMPROVEMENT RATING

Percent of students tested in 2003-04 whose 2002-03 test scores were located.

65.2%

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT)**Our School****Elementary Schools with Students like Ours****Definition of Critical Terms**

	Advanced	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	Proficient	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	Basic	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	Below Basic	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

NOTE: Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	Enrollment 1 st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced (adj.)	Performance Objective Met	Participation Objective Met
English/Language Arts - State Performance Objective = 17.6%									
All Students	201	100.0	46.6	42.3	11.1	0.0	18.5	Yes	Yes
Gender									
Male	116	100.0	50.5	39.4	10.1	0.0	16.5		
Female	85	100.0	41.3	46.3	12.5	0.0	21.3		
Racial/Ethnic Group									
White	47	100.0	26.7	40.0	33.3	0.0	37.8	Yes	Yes
African-American	149	100.0	53.9	42.6	3.5	0.0	12.1	No	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islanders	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Disability Status									
Not disabled	156	100.0	43.6	45.0	11.4	0.0	20.1		
Disabled	45	100.0	57.5	32.5	10.0	0.0	12.5	I/S	Yes
Migrant Status									
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Non-migrant	201	100.0	46.6	42.3	11.1	0.0	18.5		
English Proficiency									
Limited English Proficient	3	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Non-Limited English Proficient	198	100.0	47.1	42.2	10.7	0.0	18.2		
Socio-Economic Status									
Subsidized meals	164	100.0	50.3	42.5	7.2	0.0	13.1	No	Yes
Full-pay meals	37	100.0	30.6	41.7	27.8	0.0	41.7		

Mathematics - State Performance Objective = 15.5%									
All Students	201	100.0	57.7	35.4	5.3	1.6	13.8	No	Yes
Gender									
Male	116	100.0	59.6	33.9	5.5	0.9	11.9		
Female	85	100.0	55.0	37.5	5.0	2.5	16.3		
Racial/Ethnic Group									
White	47	100.0	31.1	51.1	11.1	6.7	31.1	Yes	Yes
African-American	149	100.0	67.4	29.1	3.5	0.0	8.5	No	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	I/S
Disability Status									
Not disabled	156	100.0	53.0	38.9	6.0	2.0	16.1		
Disabled	45	100.0	75.0	22.5	2.5	0.0	5.0	I/S	Yes
Migrant Status									
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Non-migrant	201	100.0	57.7	35.4	5.3	1.6	13.8		
English Proficiency									
Limited English Proficient	3	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Non-Limited English Proficient	198	100.0	58.3	34.8	5.3	1.6	13.9		
Socio-Economic Status									
Subsidized meals	164	100.0	63.4	33.3	2.0	1.3	8.5	No	Yes
Full-pay meals	37	100.0	33.3	44.4	19.4	2.8	36.1		

DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specifies that the statewide target is met for All Students and for the following subgroups: Racial/Ethnic, Subsidized Meals, Disability, and Limited English Proficiency.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL

		<i>Enrollment 1st Day of Testing</i>	<i>% Tested</i>	<i>% Below Basic</i>	<i>% Basic</i>	<i>% Proficient</i>	<i>% Advanced</i>	<i>% Proficient and Advanced</i>
English/Language Arts								
2003	Grade 3	91	98.9	47.4	43.6	9.0	N/A	9.0
	Grade 4	77	90.9	51.7	43.1	3.4	1.7	5.2
	Grade 5	85	95.3	64.9	31.1	2.7	1.4	4.1
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004	Grade 3	57	100.0	33.3	52.6	14.0	N/A	14.0
	Grade 4	77	100.0	49.4	41.6	9.1	N/A	9.1
	Grade 5	67	100.0	52.2	44.8	3.0	N/A	3.0
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics								
2003	Grade 3	91	100.0	46.2	46.2	6.4	1.3	7.7
	Grade 4	77	93.5	59.3	37.3	3.4	N/A	3.4
	Grade 5	85	95.3	54.1	40.5	5.4	N/A	5.4
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004	Grade 3	57	100.0	61.4	31.6	5.3	1.8	7.0
	Grade 4	77	100.0	62.3	29.9	5.2	2.6	7.8
	Grade 5	67	100.0	47.8	49.3	3.0	N/A	3.0
	Grade 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Grade 8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n= 376)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	86.8%	N/C	100.0%	100.0%
Retention rate	3.2%	Up from 1.9%	3.8%	2.7%
Attendance rate	95.7%	No change	96.2%	96.4%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (ELA) off grade level	9.5%		6.8%	4.6%
Students with disabilities other than speech taking PACT (Math) off grade level	8.5%		5.3%	3.5%
Eligible for gifted and talented	11.5%	Down from 15.0%	6.3%	13.5%
On academic plans	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
On academic probation	N/AV	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	7.4%	Down from 10.1%	8.0%	8.2%
Older than usual for grade	0.3%	Down from 0.9%	2.3%	0.9%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No change	0.0%	0.0%

Teachers (n= 33)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	57.6%	Up from 51.4%	48.5%	51.4%
Continuing contract teachers	81.8%	Down from 89.2%	82.4%	87.5%
Highly qualified teachers**	88.0%	N/A	92.7%	95.0%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%		2.9%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	83.0%	Down from 84.6%	83.6%	86.7%
Teacher attendance rate	93.7%	Up from 92.5%	94.8%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$41,465	Up 3.4%	\$39,933	\$40,760
Prof. development days/teacher	26.5 days	N/R	13.3 days	12.4 days

School				
Principal's years at school	3.0	Up from 2.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	9.7 to 1	Up from 8.0 to 1	17.4 to 1	18.9 to 1
Prime instructional time	85.1%	Up from 82.7%	89.3%	90.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,399	Up 7.5%	\$6,562	\$6,044
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	70.3%	Up from 55.6%	64.3%	65.9%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good	Good
Parents attending conferences	99.0%	Up from 95.4%	99.0%	99.0%
SACS accreditation	No	No change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Excellent	N/A	Good	Good

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools**	89.9%	92.0%
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools**	88.1%	91.1%
	State Objective	Met State Objective
Highly qualified teachers in this school**	65.0%	Yes
Student attendance in this school	95.3%	Yes

**NOTE: The verification process was not completed for the year reported; therefore the count of highly qualified teachers may not be accurate.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Whale Branch Elementary serviced over 430 students from Pre-K through fifth grades this past school year. Many of our students entered the school year performing below their expected grade-level, however our dedicated staff, parents, and stake-holders helped us design and develop initiatives to help meet the challenges that we faced. Through our hard work, we were able to increase our Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT) Math scores for grades 3, 4, and 5 with 6, 8, and 12 percent gains respectively, but we fell short of our desired goal, as did the rest of the state, in the English Language Arts component. As a result, we achieved the Report Card status of "Below Average" for another year. To help correct this deficiency for future years, we along with another school in the district applied for a Reading First Grant to help our students in reading for students in kindergarten through third grades and we were approved. To date, we have had some initial training and will continue to have some more during the course of this summer and next school year. We finally feel that we have added a piece of the puzzle that was missing and is necessary to help us obtain the success that we desire.

This coming year (2004-2005), with the advent of the Reading First Grant, we anticipate having a staff of thirty-four (34) teachers, one Literacy Coach, three (3) Reading Recovery teachers, four (4) Teacher-Specialists-on-Site for second, third, fourth, and fifth grades respectively. Our school will also include the services of a Guidance Teacher, Social Worker, Speech Teacher, a Media Specialist, a Nurse, and an on-site Mental Health Specialist. Our curriculum is aligned with state standards, we have assessment tools in place, and books have been adopted and ordered. With combined efforts from this professional faculty and staff and the resources available, we will be able to boost our report card rating from "Below Average".

Our relationship with our parents and the community has been second to none. Our School Improvement Council (SIC) continues to be a strong voice and an advocate for our students and has made sure that we are carrying out our responsibilities and duties as outlined in our School Renewal Plan. The Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) continues to help boost student and teacher morale with planned activities and functions.

Lastly, we are very proud of the professionalism of each member of this school that they displayed in helping our children to succeed achieve both academically and socially. We are also very proud to report that two (2) more of our teachers were recognized as being Nationally Board Certified, thus giving us a total of four (4).

As with many schools throughout the state, Whale Branch Elementary School continues to face many challenges, but we are dedicated individuals who work together as a team and are determined to meet the federal, state, and district's mandates.

From the administration, faculty, and staff, we would like to personally thank you for your continued support in our academic endeavors.

Charles N. Henderson, Principal

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	24	49	26
Percent satisfied with learning environment	41.7%	91.8%	83.3%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	75.0%	79.6%	68.0%
Percent satisfied with home-school relations	20.8%	87.5%	75.0%

*Only students at the highest elementary school grade level at this school and their parents were included.